AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sorting individual timber pieces of different dimensions and/or qualities into a number of mutually superposed sorting compartments, comprising:

a conveyer for vertical transport along infeed ends of the sorting compartments of individual timber pieces with their longitudinal direction approximately horizontal and transversely directed in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sorting compartments, and

a transfer device located wholly on a side of the conveyor facing the sorting compartments for transferring a specific timber piece from the conveyor to a specific sorting compartment,

wherein the transfer device has at least one transfer member per sorting compartment; and

wherein each transfer member is movable between a passive position outside the path of the conveyor and between said path and the sorting compartment and in conjunction with the infeed end of the sorting compartment, and an active position within the path of the conveyor for engagement with a timber piece carried by the conveyor and transferring it to the sorting compartment.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the conveyor has a substantially vertical and rectilinear path of movement from above and downwards, which is located a slight distance from the infeed ends of the sorting compartments, which lie substantially in a common vertical plane.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transfer members are elongate and substantially straight with a slightly obliquely upwardly end section, and extend in their active positions in the longitudinal direction out from the infeed ends of the sorting compartments and with the end section slightly obliquely upwards towards the conveyor.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said transfer members have roller paths at least on the upper side of an end section.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein an end section of the transfer members has circulating driven belts on which the timber pieces rest and which impart to the timber pieces an additional movement in a direction towards a sorting compartment.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1~~,

An apparatus for sorting individual timber pieces of different dimensions and/or qualities into a number of mutually superposed sorting compartments, comprising:

a conveyer for vertical transport along infeed ends of the sorting compartments of individual timber pieces with their longitudinal direction approximately horizontal and transversely directed in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sorting compartments, and

a transfer device for transferring a specific timber piece from the conveyor to a specific sorting compartment,

wherein the transfer device has at least one transfer member per sorting compartment; and

wherein each transfer member is movable between a passive position outside the path of the conveyor and between said path and the sorting compartment and in conjunction with the infeed end of the sorting compartment, and an active position within the path of the conveyor for engagement with a timber piece carried by the conveyor and transferring it to the sorting compartment,

wherein said transfer members are movable in a substantially translation movement to and from active position.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the translation movement of the transfer member in a region of its active position on return towards the passive position, there is superposed a downwardly directed movement component at the end section of the transfer member.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for sorting individual timber pieces of different dimensions and/or qualities into a number of mutually superposed sorting compartments, comprising:

a conveyer for vertical transport along infeed ends of the sorting compartments of individual timber pieces with their longitudinal direction approximately horizontal and transversely directed in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sorting compartments, and

a transfer device for transferring a specific timber piece from the conveyor to a specific sorting compartment,

wherein the transfer device has at least one transfer member per sorting compartment;

wherein each transfer member is movable between a passive position outside the path of the conveyor and in conjunction with the infeed end of the sorting compartment, and an active position within the path of the conveyor for engagement with a timber piece carried by the conveyor and transferring it to the sorting compartment;

wherein said transfer members are movable in a substantially translation movement to and from active position,

wherein the translation movement for the transfer members is of adjustable length.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the conveyor has carriers for supporting a timber piece with approximately horizontal longitudinal direction; and that the carriers incline obliquely downwards in a direction towards infeed ends of the sorting compartments.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said carriers and the end sections of said transfer members have approximately the same inclination.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sorting individual timber pieces of different dimensions and/or qualities into a number of mutually superposed sorting compartments, comprising:

a conveyor for transport along infeed ends of the sorting compartments of individual timber pieces with their longitudinal direction approximately horizontal and transversely directed in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sorting compartments;

a transfer device located wholly on a side of the conveyor facing the sorting compartments for transferring a specific timber piece from the conveyor to a specific sorting compartment, the transfer device having at least one transfer member in association with each sorting compartment, and

each transfer member having a gripping position for gripping a timber piece carried by the conveyer, a transfer position for transferring the timber piece gripped in the gripping position into the associated sorting compartment and a passive, inoperative rest position, said rest position and said transfer position being both located on the same side of the conveyor, which is that side facing the sorting compartments.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for sorting individual timber pieces of different dimensions and/or qualities into a number of mutually superposed sorting compartments, comprising:

a conveyer for transport along infeed ends of the sorting compartments of individual timber pieces with their longitudinal direction approximately horizontal and transversely directed in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sorting compartments;

~~each~~ a transfer member being movable from a rest position to a gripping position in a direction from the infeed ends of the sorting compartments towards the conveyer to grip a timber piece carried thereby and then back ~~again~~ to a transfer position where the timber piece gripped in the gripping position is transferred to a specific sorting compartment.

13. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transfer member has a different angle in relation to the horizontal plane in the active position and the passive position.

14. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein an angle of the active position is greater than an angle of the passive position in relation to a horizontal plane.

15. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the transfer member has a different angle in relation to the horizontal plane in the active position and the passive position.

16. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein an angle of the active position is greater than an angle of the passive position in relation to a horizontal plane.

17. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the transfer member has a different angle in relation to the horizontal plane in the active position and the passive position.

18. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein an angle of the active position is greater than an angle of the passive position in relation to a horizontal plane.

19. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the transfer member has a different angle in relation to the horizontal plane in the active position and the passive position.

20. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, wherein an angle of the active position is greater than an angle of the passive position in relation to a horizontal plane.